

The NUMISMATIST

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MONEY AND MEDALLIC ART

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Leading Illustrated Articles

MODERN COINS OF COREA

H. A. Ramsden

IDLER-GRANBERG 1804 DOLLAR

Alchemistic Coins and Medals

From the German of Herman Feith

COINS OF MOROCCO

Howland Wood

THE ZABRISKIE COLLECTION



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PHILADELPHIA, U. S. A.

THE IDLER-GRANBERG 1804 DOLLAR

An Unrecorded Specimen of the Great Rarity Comes to Light.
 Captain John W. Haseltine Logically Defends it as an
 "Original," with New and Interesting Notes on a Much
 Discussed Coinage.



ONE DAY, perhaps, the numismatist may have the true story of the 1804 U. S. Dollar coinage, but in the absence of records, and since the secret, which it undoubtedly seems, died with those who knew it, this much-sought information of the most discussed of all American coins promises to be surrounded with mystery and governed by theory until shades shall walk and spirits may talk.

The 1804 Dollar was the first U. S. coin to come into the limelight as a great rarity and commanding the highest price. This led to theorizing as to the cause of its scarcity; that which would fill volumes has been written and published on the subject, but excepting a part of that which has come from the pens of the numismatic student and expert, all may be classed as "fairy tales," and the great circulation that has been given to "theories" has made it the most notorious coin of our country.



This coinage is once more brought into numismatic prominence by the coming to light of a specimen not previously recorded among the limited number classed as "genuine" and "original." In the collection of the late William Idler, of Philadelphia, which has for some months been in the process of dissemination at private sale and in which there were several numismatic surprises, was found an 1804 Dollar in a perfect state of preservation. This coin was purchased some months ago by Mr. H. O. Granberg, the noted collector and mining expert of Oshkosh, Wis. Mr. Granberg exhibited this coin with a number of other great rarities at the late convention of the American Numismatic Association. That this particular coin was not previously recorded has very naturally called for reasons in support of the claims made for it. Captain John W. Haseltine, who is not only one of our oldest living numismatic experts, but was also the son-in-law of Mr. Idler, is certainly most capable of writing on this specimen, and which he defends as genuine and original in the following letter to Mr. Granberg:

"MR. H. O. GRANBERG:

"Dear Sir: Complying with your request, I will state that the 1804 Dollar that you have come from the collection of the late William Idler, of Philadelphia. It not having been known to collectors previously is not strange to those that knew him. He was a very reticent man and never cared to tell anyone about his collection or to show it, even to his own sons.

"It is a genuine silver dollar of that date, struck at the United States Mint, the obverse from the same die that all the others known were struck from.

"There are several varieties of reverse to the known 1804 Dollar, but no variety of obverse, except what could be obtained by rounding or flattening the letters and numerals by a skilful engraver, which I believe has been done on some of the 1804 Dollars known.

"We find on all (or nearly all) of the early U. S. Dollars of other dates quite a number of varieties of reverse, and that fact does not throw any doubt upon the originality of any of them. Why should it on the 1804 Dollar?

"Tradition (not records, for there are none in the Mint) informs us that in the early period of the Mint's working, the officials were not particular what date of dies were used when they received a large order to strike a number of pieces. The dies being of softer steel (than at present), easily cracked and broke, and having no hub or mother dies, they kept making new dies. Therefore, as I stated, when they received a large order from the Treasury Department, they selected any dies of any date (both obverse and reverse) that were in good condition and struck off the necessary number of pieces ordered.

"You will see by my Type Table that in 1798 there were 30 different obverses of the dollar, with 17 reverses. No. 10 has 2 reverses; No. 18 has 3; No. 22 has 2; No. 14 has 2; and No. 26 has 5. In 1799 the same mixture of obverses and reverses on the dollar also occurs. Therefore, it is morally certain that the original 1804 Dollar is likely to have different reverses, while the so-called restrikes, with irregular lettering on the edge, would be *almost certain (all) to have identical reverses.*

"About the Idler 1804 Dollar, the mere fact that it has not so even a surface, being slightly convex on one side and concave on the other, is greatly in its favor, as it only carries out the fact that they were not so particular in early times how they struck the coins, and I think it was owing to the planchet being a trifle too broad for the collar. It is exactly the *same obverse* as the one at the U. S. Mint. There is *positively no authority or data known* for anyone to state that there were any restrikes of this dollar, excepting the ones with the plain edge. The Idler dollar shows *all the lettering* on the edge, while nearly all of the ones previously offered for sale show that the edge has been tampered with by removing some of the letters, presumably to make them identical and also to make them weigh the same.

"On the reverse of all there are 12 arrows in the eagle's claw, while the Idler dollar has 13 arrows. The few known with different reverses, I believe, are more likely to be originals, particularly the ones with 13 arrows and perfectly lettered edges and with the stars distant from the clouds.

"The edge of the Berg dollar has the double lettering and would be exactly like the so-called originals, if the letters were smoothed off or erased in the same way. There is no authority for the statement 'that the Berg dollar was struck between 1800 and 1809,' and I defy anyone to give any proof of it.

"Forty years ago I knew that Mr. Idler had an 1804 Dollar and he bound me to secrecy in reference to it, as he made his electrotypes from it.

"Mr. Chapman classifies the Davis dollar as 'one of the originals;' it carries with it a certificate of the U. S. Mint to that effect. He says that he does not know where it is, but I do. I sold it originally to Mr. Davis, and my recollection of it is that it is identical with the Idler dollar.

"The weight of the Cohen dollar is 410½ grains; the Idler dollar weighs 411 and a fraction grains; and the restrike plain edge dollars weigh 381.5 grains. A very little wear would take off 4 or 5 grains in weight.

"In the restrike with plain edge the stars on reverse mostly touch the clouds; in the Idler dollar they *do not* touch, and I firmly believe that the Idler dollar is an original struck from the 1804 Dollar dies, and its having a different reverse die from any of the others is very much in its favor.

"Suppose the officials in the U. S. Mint struck off, say, half a dozen 1804 Dollars at a later period, say 40 years ago, would they not be almost certain to select *but one reverse die* for all of them (while at an earlier period of the working of the Mint we know they used different reverses with no regard as to their connection with the obverse), and if the edge looked peculiar, how easy to smooth it off and erase the double lettering.

"Do not pay any attention to anyone calling the Idler dollar 'hogus or fake,' or insinuating that it is not from the 1804 Dollar dies, as it is a statement that cannot be verified and looks like a bold assertion to cover a fear that smoothing of the edges on the other dollars might cause them and their history to be more closely investigated. Now in closing, I will stake my reputation that the Idler 1804 Dollar is a genuine and original dollar struck from the dies at the United States Mint.

JOHN W. HASELTINE.

Philadelphia, Pa., Oct. 19, 1908.

Mr. Granberg writes in reference to this coin: "I have examined the two 1804 Dollars in the Mint at Philadelphia and have also secured the photographs and description of the 'Dexter' dollar, and by comparison I am favorably impressed with the genuineness of the Idler dollar for the very reasons described by Captain Hessel-tine. A side view of ten coins, comprising the varieties of the dollars of 1800, 1801, 1802, 1803 and the 1804, shows the lettering on the edge to be so much alike, both as to letters and spacing, that no one could pick out the 1804 from the others. This lettering of the edge and the thirteen arrow heads in eagle's left claw makes this dollar like all the genuine dollars prior to 1804, and the obverse being so clear, distinct and regular, with the star close to Y in word LIBERTY, it has all the known marks of identifying this date as one more genuine than any of those differing in these important points."

The illustration presented herewith is made from a photograph of the Idler-Granberg dollar. The photograph shows the coin enlarged with the identifying marks, particularly the thirteen arrow heads in eagle's claw, clearly in evidence. Our illustration shows the coin in its natural size.

This defense of the Idler-Granberg coin makes the 1804 Dollar, in general, a subject of pertinent interest, and a discussion of all the known specimens would be timely. THE NUMISMATIST will gladly welcome for publication the conclusions of experts regarding the history of the 1804 Dollar in general, and notes in reference to the history of each recognized genuine specimen.

The New Gold Types Defended by One Who Knows the Indian and the Eagle.

Mr. J. C. Lighthouse, of Rochester, N. Y., and San Francisco, California, who has for months been battling with illness, writes THE NUMISMATIST from his hospital cot, in Rochester:—

"I have read pro and con, about our new gold pieces and I have concluded, that if the best designers on earth, would come and design coins, they could not please everybody. You are well aware that in early days most all Foreign coins had mottoes. Take the German coins for instance, about all had such mottoes, "Gott mit uns" (God with us). What is it now? It is being dropped. I agree with President Roosevelt, that the Saint Gaudens' designs are beautiful, and as time passes, we can remedy any discovered defects. As to the incused, \$2.50 and \$5 coins, I do not like them as well as the Saint Gaudens', but I think they will wear better than if in high relief. I note, one gentleman's remarks about "portrays an Indian, who is emaciated, totally unlike the big, strong Indian Chiefs, as seen in real life." Now I will say I have crossed this continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific, twenty-eight (28) times. I have seen about all Indian tribes. I have hunted and fished with them, and have many friends among them. In fact, am the only white man, who can go on a certain reservation in Washington to fish and hunt, without a permission. When they heard how sick I was, the Chief called a council of his braves, and had a "Pow wow" about me. With all I have seen, I have yet to see a full-faced, fat Indian. In my judgment the Indian heads on the \$2.50 and \$5 are fine and correct Indian heads.

As to the Eagle, will say, I have shot them as they swooped down upon a lamb, and have also shot the black eagle, they do have feathers on their feet. Perhaps not as many as shown on the coins, but they do have feathers.

As to dirt, etc., gathering, have never yet seen what would be called dirty gold coins, as dirt will not stick to gold, like it will to copper and silver. I know this to be true, as all our money is gold on the Pacific coast, *except for change*. As to the stacking of gold coins, all banks on the Pacific coast, have boxes that will hold so many tiers, and so many thousand dollars in a box. Each tier has a sliding partition, and when a tier is paid out, the partition is removed and the next tier is at hand. These boxes generally hold \$2,000 to \$5,000. A \$5,000 box will weigh over 20 lbs., and no coins can possibly fall. Have seen them time and again, as I had two banks in my building and know whereof I speak.

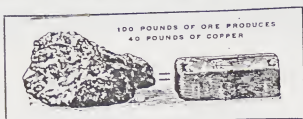
J. C. LIGHTHOUSE."

Rochester, N. Y., Mar. 2, 1909.





MR. H. O. GRANBERG



"PLUTO" "ANCHORIA" "JACK POT"
"AZURITE" "INDUSTRIAL"
AND
"OSHKOSH-WYOMING"
COMPANIES

OFFICE OF
H. O. GRANBERG
SELECTED COPPER PROPERTIES

AND
STEMP SPRINGS COAL AND POWER COMPANY
BATTLE LAKE MINING DISTRICT, CARBON COUNTY, WYOMING

55 HIGH STREET, TELEPHONE 2365
OSHKOSH, WIS..

Philadelphia Pa 29 to 17th St Oct 19, 1908

Mrs. H. O. Granberg

Dear Sir;

Complying with your request I will state that the 1804 Dollar, that you have, came from the collection of the late Wm Idler of this city. It not having been known to collectors previously is not strange to those that knew him.

He was a very reticent man and never cared to tell anyone about his collection or to show it, even to his own son.

It is a genuine Silver Dollar of that date, struck at the United States Mint, the obverse from the same die that all the others known were struck from. There are several varieties of reverse to the known 1804 Dollar but no variety of obverse, except what could be obtained by rounding or flattening the letters and numerals by a skillful engraver, which I believe has been done on some of the 1804 Dollars known. We find, on all (or nearly all) of the early U.S. Dollars of other dates, quite a number of varieties of reverse and that fact does not throw any doubt upon the originality of any of them. Why should it on the 1804 Dollar?

Tradition (not record for there are none in the Mint) informs us that in the Early period of the Mint working, the officials were not particular what date of dies were used when they received a large order to strike

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55 HIGH STREET, TELEPHONE 2365

OSHKOSH, WIS..

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100 POUNDS OF ORE PRODUCES
40 POUNDS OF COPPER

"PLUTO" "ANCHORIA" "JACK POT"
"AZURITE" AND "INDUSTRIAL"
"OSHKOSH-WYOMING"
COMPANIES

a number of pieces, The dies being of softer Steel (than at present), easily cracked and broke and having no hub or mother dies they kept making new dies. Therefore as I stated when they received a large order from the Treasury Dept they selected any dies of any date (both obverse and reverse) that were in perfect condition and struck off the necessary number of pieces ordered. You will see by my Type Table that in 1798 there were 30 different obverses of the dollar with 17 Reverses. No 10 has 2 reverses No 18 has 3, No 22 has 2, No 14 has 2, and No 26 has 5. In 1799 the same mixture of obverses and reverses on the dollar also occurs Therefore it is morally certain that the original 1804 Dollar is likely to have different reverses while the so called re-strikes with irregular lettering on the edge would be almost certain (all) to have identical reverses.

About the 1804 Dollar the mere fact that it has not so even a surface being slightly convex on one side and concave on the other, is greatly in its favor, as it only carries out the fact that they were not so particular in early times how they struck the coins and I think it was owing to the planchet being a trifle too broad for the collar, It is exactly the same obverse as the one at the U.S. Mint. There is positively no authority or data known for any one to state that there were any restrikes of this dollar.



H. O. GRANBERG

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AND

STEMP SPRINGS COAL AND POWER COMPANY

BATTLE LAKE MINING DISTRICT, CARBON COUNTY, WYOMING

55 HIGH STREET, TELEPHONE 2365

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OSHKOSH, WIS.,

"PLUTO" "ANCHOR" "JACK POT"
"AZURITE" "INDUSTRIAL"
AND
"OSHKOSH-WYOMING"
COMPANIES

lettering on the edge, while nearly all of the ones previously offered for sale show that the edge has been tampered with by removing some of the letters presumably to make them identical and also to make them weigh the same. On the reverse of all of these are 12 arrows in the Eagles claw while the Idler dollar has 13 arrows, the few known with different reverses, I believe are more likely to be originals, particularly the ones with 13 arrows and perfectly lettered edges and with the stars distant from the clouds. The edge of the Berg Dollar has the double lettering and would be exactly like the so called originals, if the letters were smoothed off or erased in the same way. There is no authority for the statement that the Berg dollar was struck between 1860 and 1869 and I defy anyone to give any proof of it.

Forty years ago I knew that Mr Idler had an 1804 Dollar and he bound me to secrecy in reference to it as he made his electrotypes from it. Mr Chapman classifies the Davis dollar as "one of the originals" it carries with it a Certificate of the U S Mint to that effect he says that he does not know where it is, but I do. I sold it originally to Mr Davis and my recollection of it is that it is identical with the Idler dollar.

The Weight of the Cohen Dollar is 410 $\frac{1}{4}$ grains
Idler " 411 $\frac{1}{2}$ fraction

Practically plain edge

381 $\frac{5}{8}$

a very little were would

21/1908
Lancaster

Mr H. C. Granberg:-

Yours of 18th received.
I thank you for circulars
enclosed which are very interesting.
Just at present, however, I am
in such position that I have
practically stopped buying,
intend to market considerable
of my large stock and get
into better position financially.
I have considerable real estate
on which I have a large equity,
as well as a stock in various
lines that approximates \$1,000,000
but yet am bothered for the
want of a few thousands.

Regarding the 1804 Sellers
in lieu of a personal list, which
would cover same ground, I

refer you to description of 6549
of last year's Stickney sale. The
6 which are, at least, the first
known of these, and as there
given and no changes since
last year - The only change is
that the Stickney piece is now
owned by Geo. H. Earle ~~of~~ Philadelphia
- at least, that is the generally
understood impression. The Appleton
specimen formerly the Hickley is in
the Mass. Historical Society not
the N. E. Hist. Soc. (a slight slip by
Chapman). The 6 are given as

1. U. S. Mint
2. Mass. Hist. Soc. (Appleton)
3. City of Omaha (Byron Reed)
4. W. F. Dunham, Chicago
5. J. H. Manning, Albany
6. Geo. H. Earle Phila

Of the whereabouts of the restrikes
with plain edge or jumbled lettering
- there is some assertion that these

are not even strikes but from a counterfeit die - The location is not as certain. In the Brown sale, Oct. 11, 1904, Low gave a list, compiled by Mr. Nexsen, in which the originals and others are mixed together - he enumerates 13 altogether of which no. 1-3-4-6-7-11 are the originals.

No. 2 and 5 are given as plain edge and the latter in copper and in U.S. Mints of Phila & San Francisco. No. 12 the former Lundermann piece, now owned by James Ten Eyck, Albany, was sold as a strike made while Lundermann was Director of the Mint. No. 8 and 9, the former Dr. Davis & Ott. Berg specimens, were of the jumbled edge variety.

No. 10 & 13 I know nothing about but the former Phineas Adams piece was probably of same character as the Davis & Berg.

No. 13 may also be of this class but is possibly a fraud. I do not know of its being examined by any good authority.

He told me that he had considerable information from Arthur ~~Shatcher~~ ^{Shatcher} ~~Fletcher~~, a former old time mine employee, regarding the 1804 dollar manufacturing but that as it was received Masonically he was under obligations not to divulge it without permission.

Regarding the making of 1804 dollars which I mentioned in a previous letter as having been told me about 25 years ago by Wm Jenkins of Philadelphia, Iabel True furnished more particulars. He says they were struck by Eckfeldt and his son Carter stole them from his father and tried to dispose of them. Such a fuss was made at the time that several were returned - one had gone to Major Nichols of Springfield, Mass through Randall-

one, however, was taken abroad and the purchaser would not return it even when requested by U.S. officials - Haseltine says it is now in Liverpool. This piece had a plain edge and the one in Mint cabinet with plain edge is supposed to have been from this striking. The Lindermann piece - sold with other restrikes and patterns when this former Director of the Mint coins were sold some 20 years ago - was bought by and is now owned by James Ten Eyck, Albany, N.Y. It has plain edge but whether from the above lot or a different striking I do not know.

There are numerous allusions in old sale and other catalogues to the 1804 dollar and when the Nickley piece (now in the Mass. Historical Society with the other American coins of Mr. Appleton) was first offered it was claimed to have been found

in a bank originally, Woodward as late as 1888 claimed that the dies were then yet in existence though supposed to have been destroyed 10 years before. It is possible that they may still exist.

I am making notes as I go along - such references as I find in looking up old catalogues, etc. for other reasons and may some time in the future write up on the subject but there is so little of real value that can be ascertained that I am afraid collectors would know very little more after I got through. Am so very busy that I can hardly get time for absolutely necessary work but if I find out anything that would be of extra interest

To you I will let you know promptly.

Wishing you a "Merry Christmas" I remain

Yours truly
E. A. Strigewalt
150 E. King St.,
Lancaster, Pa.

P.S. Mr. Staseltine thinks the edge lettering on the old planchets was not done at same process as the striking. He thinks either the planchets were lettered first or it was done by some wheel process. The bogus show two C's in CENT - the first C plain, the second maker. Mr. St. thinks the Dexter-Brown piece now owned by Sunbowl had this extra C filed off and he even said that the Stickney piece had the edge tampered with but I think he is mistaken in this. In selling the R. C. Davis piece when sold in 1888, Woodward says the lettering was distended.

29 So 17² St
Phila Oct 19th 1908

Mr H. C. Granberg

Dorlin

I send you herewith
the letter I promised in ref to the 1804
Dollar from Mr Illens' Collection,
You will see that I have more faith
in it than in any of the others that
differ with it on the reverse.

If you purchase the dollar you
can use my letter in any way you see
fit, but if you do not purchase it -
will you be kind enough to return
my letter as I would not care to have it
used only by the purchaser of the dollar.

I rec'd your letter covering Draft on
N. York for \$350.- and thank you for
the same - You still have the 1802 Proof
Dollar at \$50.- which if you do not
purchase you can return at any time.

Yours truly John W. Heareline.

Dec 22 1909

Launcester 12th/12th/1909

Mr H. O. Grauberg:

I must beg pardon for delay in replying to yours of 12th. I have been straining every nerve to complete the Appleton No. 2 sale catalogue and have finally gotten it all in type though the press-work is not yet finished nor date set - 1503 lots - sale probably Jan. 17+18 or Jan. 18+19. I have been working under difficulties being none too well and particularly so since the day before Thanksgiving when I caught a bad cold while in Philadelphia. On that day having a little time in the

afternoon I dropped in at
HazelTine's and found him in
a conversational mood. By some
means the subject was turned
on the 1804 dollar and Mr. H.
declared that he did not believe
any of them were genuine except
possibly the Cohen-Wetmore-Manning
piece, which shows considerable
and genuine wear, and possibly
one or two more which he had not
seen of recent years. Asked if he
knew where Idler got the piece
you have and if he knew anything
about it that is not generally known
he simply smiled and would not
commit himself farther than to
say that he did not know where
Idler got it but supposed it might
be from sources similar to those
which he had just been condemning.

The altered dates, electrotypes and other frauds are too numerous to mention but are the ones mostly noted in the newspapers.

Hoping the information given is what you desire I remain

Yours Truly

Chas. Stringwalt
130 E. King St., Lancaster, Pa.

Oxford Mass. Oct 12. '08.

Mr H. O. Granberg
Oshkosh Wis.

Dear Sir:

In fulfilment of the promise -
I made you at Philadelphia, I
enclose a list of the present
owners of the 1804 dollars as
far as I can give at present.

#7 (W. B. Wetmore) was in the
sale of Henry Chapman June
27-28. 1906 but I do not know
the name of purchaser or price
it brought.

Respectfully Yours
G. A. Larned
Oxford Mass

1804 Dollar

No.	Present owner.	Receding previous owners.	High- est price realized
1	Mint Cabinet Phil.		—
2	" " plain edge		—
3	Est. of W. A. Stickney	U. S. Mint.	—
4	City of Omaha	Byron. Reed - L. G. Parmelee - C. H. Sanford.	\$ 570.
5	Mint Cabinet. San Francisco. Copper. plain edge.	Mr. Chas. Spiers. (deceased)	—
6	Est. of W. D. Appleton	W. A. Lilliendahl. - Jos. J. Mickley.	775.
7	W. B. Wetmore	L. G. Parmelee. - H. S. Adams. - Col. M. J. Cohen.	625.
8	Est. of John M. Hale	R. C. Davis - Geo. W. Klein - R. C. Davis.	1200.
9	Est. of T. Harrison Barrett.	O. H. Berg, - Kach & Co.	740.
10	J. P. Lyman	Phineas Adams.	550
11	W. F. Dunham	H. C. Brown. - R. G. Parvin. - J. B. Dexter. - S. H. & H. Chapman. - Adolph Weyl.	1500.
12	Jas. Ten Eyck	Mr H. R. Lindermann	700.
13	Jas. W. Ellsworth	Jos. Rosenthals Sons	—
# 3. sold June 1907. Buyers name withheld			3600.
# 6. now in Library of Mass. Historical Society. (Oct 1908)			

JOHN W. HASELTINE,
29 S. 17th STREET, PHILAD'A.
Postage Stamps, Coins
and Curios.

Phila Dec 28/08

My Dear Mr Saunberg

Your favor of 12th rec'd with draft on New York for \$50. for which I am much obliged. About the 1804 Dollar from Mr Idler's collection I can only add to my letter to you that Mr Idler had the dollar for 40 years and I believe it to be original and I know that it was struck from the original dies and I guarantee it as such.

Now Mr Saunberg you can publish my letter of Oct 19th in full in the Numismatist. and I will back up everything I said therein, I think a certain dealer regrets now his hasty remarks about it - at the exhibition during the convention. He no doubt - was astonished and mortified that one should turn up of which he had no knowledge. I will as soon as I sell this dollar astonish him and other collectors still more when I show them some pieces 10 times as rare, unique coins struck at the U.S. Mint of which a number ^{are} not known to collectors ^{and} of the highest degree of interest to the world.

If I had a restrike 1804 Dollar known to be such ~~as~~ I can sell it for \$2000. - without any trouble.

In the meantime if I can spare time to run up to Philadelphia where the two sisters of Mr Stale live I (over)

will endeavor to get a photograph or perhaps only a rubbing
of the Davis dollar - If you buy the Soller dollar
and I want you to have it you will make no mistake
and I will back it up with all the information and
reasons at my command, even if it should hunt all
the other possessors of the 1804 Dollar - There is no
one in the world can say that it is not from the
1804 Dollar die. If you furnish my letter for publi-
cation in the Numismatist stipulate that they are not
to cut out anything but to publish it in its "entirety"
for sometimes in condensing or cutting out for publication
~~that~~ they might make the reading have a different
meaning, be particular about this for Mr Z. will
certainly want to eliminate some of it that might
reflect on somebody's knowledge or discernment or
even misstatements.

Yours truly
John W. Haseltine

To
Mr H. C. Granberg

Phila Mar 16/10

Mr H. O. Granger

Dear Sir

Yr favor of 11th recd. I am somewhat-disappointed in not receiving the dollar. As I wrote before, I am confident of selling it here to those who understand all about the cloud & mystery of the 1804 Dollars.

There is not a man in the world who can assure with positive ness that any 1804 Dollar known, was struck in 1804. but I will always maintain that the Idler dollar is more likely to be an original than all the others, particularly as it has a different reverse from some of them and perhaps all of them and has a good edge. I will stand on this basis. Whether you buy it or not and I can give no further information about it than you already know. When I see in black & white over their signatures, the opinions of others, will be time enough for me to answer them.

Now My Dear Mr Granger do not write me any other offers for I think you already have a bargain. The pattern pieces I could now sell at higher prices and even if you consider the 1804 as a possible restrike it is worth \$2000.- but if you will send me (as you suggested in a former letter) a New York draft that I will

receive before April 1st for \$2300⁰⁰ I
will give you a receipt in full & date.
I would not do this to any other man on
Earth and it is positively the only price I
will consider, If not acceptable to you will
you please return the 1804 so that I can
receive it before April 1st for if I am to
have it back I must have it by that time

In that event I ask (as due me) that you
will not mention the price I offered it
to you.

Yours truly

John W. Harelline

An early answer will be appreciated.

(hope your little boy is well again) (Yours J. H. N.)

Phila Mar 5/10

Dear Mr Granting

Your form of Feb 28th came duly to hand

It is scarcely necessary for me to say anything more about my opinion on the 1804 Dollar. Time and further developments will show the correctness of my statement in ref. to it. When it is returned to me I will have a good deal more to say. I appreciate your position in the matter and will relieve you of all further trouble about it

I respectfully decline your offer and with its return to me at once, carefully packed and protected in its transit, as you suggested in a former letter, and the payment to me of the amount due on the other coins, we will consider the incident closed on your part. All the same I thank you for the offer but do not wish you to be burdened with a piece that you have so much doubt about, however I will be glad to receive it again and you can rest assured that I will obtain a much higher price for it, particularly when some facts I know about the other 1804 Dollars are made public. I do not wish you to keep it but will merely say if the Mint Authorities should declare it to be a genuine struck at the U. S. Mint I will willingly give \$150.- or will take it in the same condition, as they would in then be worth \$200.-

I will give you a little light on this subject, but do not consider it in any way as an endeavor to have you retain it, but merely to show you an opening gun in a campaign against some of the other 1804 Dollars "with a pedigree"

The Stickney dollar of 1804

Purchased by Mr Chapman at the Stickney sale under the name of 'Hercules' and supposed to be now the property of Mr Earl of this city, is undoubtedly a counterfeit in the opinion of myself and many others.

In the Cleary sale Dec 1890 there was sold three dollars Proofs of 1801, 1802 + 1803, catalogued as test pieces, which I know they are as I owned them at one time & obtained by me from a party then in the U. S. Mint. The photographs of the reverse of these pieces and the photograph of the reverse of the Stickney 1804 Dollar are identical without a shadow of a doubt and were undoubtedly struck at the same time, even the ^{beaded} milling near the edge is identical. You can compare them yourself. Probably upon comparison the other 1804 Dollars, prized now by the owners as originals and who damn the Toller dollar, may have also the same reverse.

I only write the above to show you on what shallow ground the so called original stand upon.

Do not be offended at my declaration of your offer as you may be glad to have it off your hands and I will be pleased to receive it as soon as possible for I will not publish any of my articles until I do so.

Yours truly & faithfully John W. Cassette.

JOHN W. HASELTINE,
29 S. 17th STREET, PHILAD'A.
Postage Stamps, Coins
and Curios.

Confidential

Phila July 15th/10

Mr. H. O. Granting
Dorlin

Ever since I returned from Washington I have been endeavoring to find Robert K. Idler but he has been hiding from me ever since I demanded an explanation. My Nagz also has been trying to locate him but without avail. He has been disgruntled because he considers he did not get enough for the Coins he sold - but he seems to be ashamed to meet me. but I will get an explanation from him sometime. The 1804 Dollar Mr Idler had and from it he made his his Electrotype Copies. This I can furnish you positive proof of and R. K. I. knows it but I do not care to put in writing now what I will state later when I am ready to publish what I know about the 1804 Dollars, but when I see you personally I can tell you more about it.

I have been fighting the late Mint Director Andrews (who has been deposed) and in the interest of all the Numismatists in the U.S. who have pattern pieces.

Through a Conspiracy, started by a certain gentleman in Albany, some of my pattern pieces were seized by Andrews and although he was

told by the U.S. Dist. Atty that he said no
Case, he told them to push it; Since then
he has been removed from the Directorship
of the Mint. (and no wonder) My ammunition is
all in, (except some masked batteries for reserve)
The case will come up in October and
I will fight in the interest of all the
Collections of Patten pieces in the U.S. and
will gain for them an unquestionable title
to all they hold and I will win sure.
I will only say here if you wish to dispose
of your 1804 Dollar I can sell it for
you at what it cost you.

Could you send me a copy of Idlers
letter

Yours truly
John W. Haseltine.

Mr Nagy has just returned from a trip and
he sails for Europe on Aug 23^d to be gone
about 3 mos. will have some good things to
offer you on his return.

Launceston 6/9/1909

Mr H. C. Grauberg:

Yours of 5th received.
I expect in the course of
a month or two to publish
- probably first in one of
my own circulars all the
facts I can ascertain, or rather
all I can find bearing on
the 1804 Dollar subject but
while I have considerable data
now I want to be as accurate
as possible so that I can
not be tripped up on anything
I may give.

Since writing the other day
I have two corrections to make
In No. 1 I asked V. M. Brand

whether he had purchased the
1802 & 1803 proof dollars at the
Wilcox sale and he told me
that he had. He thinks I am
in error regarding the shape of
the figure 2 on that piece
and that the coins are re-struck
and not counterfeited or made
dies. The pieces being struck
from old dies and not engraved
at the time. There was an 1801
of some character issued at the
time as it is mentioned
in Hartzfeld's circular (of date
) I think of 1879 - I don't have
it by me today as I write
out this 1801 re-struck seems
to have disappeared and I
know of no collection containing
it. It is fairly possible that
after striking some specimens

of which I hardly had knowledge
 that the die of the 1801
 may have been altered to
 1804 (not a difficult matter)
 and specimens struck from
 the die after alteration of
 same. The great point in the
 accurate placing of your
 piece is the comparison of
 the obverse with the so called
 originals. If it is identical
 with that of the plain edge
 specimen in the Tower (that is
 after the die had been manipu-
 lated somewhat) its character
 as a mistake would be fixed
 without a shadow of doubt.
 Judging from the photo-engravings
 alone, which is not a very
 accurate method, I would say
 that the obverse of your piece

is not the same as that of the
so called originals. It may however
be the same as that of the plain
edge specimens but there are
seeming points of difference on
the photo's that could not
come from manipulations of the
dies. I presume Hareldine
would not claim that there
might have been two differing
obverse as well as reverse
dies but it is a thousand
times more likely that the
obverse die is a new creation
altogether or possibly a change
(die alteration) from the 1801
die which was used for the
1801 re strikes. If one of these
1801 re strikes could be located
in some old collection and it
could be shown that the die is
identical, excepting the date
alone, the character of your

piece would be fixed once
 and forever. The only trouble
 would be to find some collection
 that would be old enough to
 contain a specimen of this
 1801 strike. Collectors like James
 Ten Eyck of Albany, V.M. Brand
 and others commenced collecting
 a little later. Brand at Phila
 called my attention in a
 general conversation taking place
 in the auction room to the fact
 that his first approval Consignment
 came from me in 1886 and
 that he distinctly recalls
 thinking when he received it
 that any dealer who would send
 \$180. worth of coins at one time
 must have thought the collector
 crazy to buy so much at one time.
 The second correction I referred

to in the beginning of this letter,
is regarding the R.C. Davis dollar.
My memory has been refreshed
of that and I now recall that
in 1885 when the Dexter 1804
Dollar was offered, Chapmans
was right in saying "that it ^(R.C. Davis piece)
had been recently sold". Haselthorn
had sold it to Klein, who was
a South-west railroad president
for \$200 which was widely
heralded as the highest price
ever paid up to that time for
a U.S. coin. Klein, a little later,
got into financial difficulties
and R.C. Davis repurchased the
coin and it was with his
collection when he died in 1888.
Chapmans was in error as to
its being the same as the so-called
originals - it was the same as
the Berg piece and unquestionably

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of a later period. Whether it
was struck before or after the
manipulation of the die to make
the "plain edge" specimens I do
not know. If before, it is very
probably ^{not struck} from the original obverse
if after, it may be either from
the manipulated die used in
making the "plain edge" pieces or,
as S. H. Chapman claims, from a
counterfeit obverse. As Haseltine
claims to know the present
whereabouts of the former R. C. Davis
specimen, its production at this
time and comparison with the
Mint specimens, as well as with
your piece, might throw considerable
light on the subject. I am inclined
however, to think your piece is in
a class by itself and the result
of some Mint production of which

It is the sole remaining piece.
Possibly procured by Idles at the
time of which Mr Jinks informed
me. I have no doubt that a
determined investigation may
bring to light some strange and
forgotten facts.

There was quite a gathering
at Philadelphia last week and
you were greatly missed. Chapman
said that had he known it would
be only possible for you to arrive
on the second day that he would
have so arranged the catalogue
that the pioneer gold would have
come in the second day.

Should I ascertain anything of
additional value in hunting up on
the 1804 Dollar subjects I will
inform you promptly in advance
of the publication of same.

Yours truly

Chas Strickland

130 E. King St., Lancaster, Pa.

21/1908
Lancaster

Mr H. C. Granberg:-

Yours of 18th received.
I thank you for circulars
enclosed which are very interesting.
Just at present, however, I am
in such position that I have
practically stopped buying,
in order to make considerable
of my large stock and get
into better position financially.
I have considerable real estate,
on which I have a large equity,
as well as a stock in various
lines that approximates \$1,000,000
but yet am bothered for the
want of a few thousands.

Regarding the 1804 Sellers
in lieu of a personal list, which
would cover same ground, I

refer you to description of lot 549
of last year's Stickney sale. The
16 which are, at least, the first
known of these, and as there
given and no changes since
last year - The only change is
that the Stickney piece is now
owned by Geo. H. Earle ~~of~~ Philadelphia
- at least, that is the generally
understood impression. The Appleton
specimen formerly the Hickley is in
the Mass. Historical Society not
the U. E. Hist Soc. (a slight slip by
Chapman). The 6 are given as

1. U. S. Mint
2. Mass. Hist. Soc. (Appleton)
3. City of Omaha (Byron Reed)
4. W. F. Dunham, Chicago
5. J. H. Manning, Albany
6. Geo. H. Earle Phila

Of the whereabouts of the restrikes
with plain edge or jumbled lettering
- there is some assertion that these

are not even strikes but from a counterfeit die - The location is not as certain. In the Brown sale, Oct. 11, 1904, Low gave a list compiled by Mr. Nexsen, in which the originals and others are mixed together - he enumerates 13 altogether of which no. 1-3-4-6-7-11 are the originals.

No. 2 and 5 are given as plain edge and the latter in copper and in U.S. Mints of Phila & San Francisco. No. 12 the former Lundermann piece, now owned by James Ten Eyck, Albany, was sold as a strike made while Lundermann was Director of the mint. No. 8 and 9, the former Dr. Davis & O.H. Berg specimens, were of the jumbled edge variety. No. 10 & 13 I know nothing about but the former Phineas Adams piece was probably of same character as the Davis & Berg.

No. 13 may also be of this class but is possibly a fraud. I do not know of its being examined by any good authority.

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He told me that he had considerable information from Arthur ~~Fletcher~~^{Grascher}, a former old time mint employee, regarding the 1804 dollar manufacturing but that as it was received Masonically he was under obligations not to divulge it without permission.

Regarding the making of 1804 dollars which I mentioned in a previous letter as having been told me about 25 years ago by Wm Jenkins of Philadelphia, I have since furnished more particulars. He says they were struck by Eckfeldt and his son Cater stole them from his father and tried to dispose of them. Such a fuss was made at the time that several were returned - one had gone to Major Nichols of Springfield, Mass through Randall-

one, however, was taken abroad and the purchaser would not return it even when requested by U.S. officials - Haseltine says it is now in Liverpool. This piece had a plain edge and the one in Mint cabinet with plain edge is supposed to have been from this striking. The Lindermann piece - sold with other restrikes and patterns when the former Director of the Mint coins were sold some 20 years ago - was bought by and is now owned by James Ten Eyck, Albany, N.Y. It has plain edge but is rather from the above lot or a different striking I do not know.

There are numerous allusions in old sale and other catalogues to the 1804 dollar and when the Nickley piece (now in the Mass. Historical Society with the other American coins of Mr. Appleton) was first offered it was claimed to have been found

in a bank originally. Woodward as late as 1888 claimed that the dies were then yet in existence though supposed to have been destroyed 10 years before. It is possible that they may still exist.

I am making notes as I go along - such references as I find in looking up old catalogues, etc. for other reasons and may some time in the future write up on the subject but there is so little of real value that can be ascertained that I am afraid collectors would know very little more after I got through. Am so very busy that I can hardly get time for absolutely necessary work but if I find out anything that would be of extra interest

To you I will let you know
promptly.

Wishing you a "Merry
Christmas" I remain

Yours truly
Chas. Strigewalt
130 E. King St.,
Lancaster, Pa.

P.S. Mr. Haseltine thinks the edge
lettering on the old plauchets was
not done at same process as the
striking. He thinks either the plauchets
were lettered first or it was done by
some wheel process. The bogus show
two C's in CENT - the first C plain, the
second maker. Mr. H. thinks the
Dexter-Brown piece now owned by Sunbowl
had this extra C filed off and he even
said that the Stickney piece had the
edge tampered with but I think he
is mistaken in this. In selling the R.C. Davis
piece when sold in 1888, Woodward says the lettering was
not tampered with.